

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 EURE-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 BIB-01 /074 W

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P R 091432Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 048

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 6456

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: MORE ON BREZHNEV AND VE CEREMONIES

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REF: MOSCOW 6411

1. IMPRESSIONS OF AMBASSADOR, WHO ATTENDED VE CEREMONIES MAY 8, CONFIRM THOSE IN REFTEL, WHICH CAME FROM TV VIEWING, THAT BREZHNEV WAS QUITE ANIMATED DURING THE CEREMONIES. FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH, HE HAD LIVELY CONVERSATIONS WITH PODGORNYY, LEFT HIS SEAT TO TALK WITH GROMYKO AND GRECHKO, AND HAMMED THINGS UP WITH A CONTINGENT OF CHILDREN. AMBASSADOR FELT, HOWEVER, THAT BREZHNEV LOOKED SOMEWHAT THINNER AND MORE DRAWN THAN USUAL.
2. SPEECHES WHICH FOLLOWED BREZHNEV'S CONTAINED FREQUENT ADULATORY REFERENCES TO HIM AND TO HIS WAR ROLE. AUTO WORKER V.S. TERESHCHENKO, FOR EXAMPLE, REMINDED AUDIENCE THAT BREZHNEV HAD SPENT ENTIRE WAR IN THE ARMY. SUBSEQUENT CONCERT PERFORMANCE CONTAINED LONG FILM CLIP OF A BREZHNEV SPEECH (WE THINK FROM 1971 PARTY CONGRESS) WHICH CUT DIRECTLY TO STATUE OF LENIN IN THE SAME POSITION, AS IF TO EMPHASIZE THE EQUIVALENCE. IN A SUBSEQUENT CEREMONY IN THE KREMLIN, PODGORNYY PASSED OUT 30TH ANNIVERSARY MEDALS TO TOP LEADERS PRESENT IN MOSCOW AND GAVE A MARSHAL'S STAR TO BREZHNEV. THE STAR IS CONNECTED WITH THE RANK OF ARMY GENERAL; BREZHNEV IS NOT YET A MARSHAL.
3. OTHER SPEAKERS, LIKE BREZHNEV, AVOIDED THE SUBJECT OF STALIN AND HIS WARTIME LEADERSHIP. CPSU WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR ORGANIZING AND INSPIRING THE VICTORY.
4. REFTEL (PARA 2) REPORTED TASS ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF BREZHNEV'S WORDS THAT END OF WAR IN INDOCHINA WOULD "AS WE HOPE" BENEFIT U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE. PERHAPS WORTH NOTING THAT HIS ACTUAL WORDS WERE "KAK MY POLAGAYEM," WHICH IS MORE ACCURATELY TRANSLATED AS "AS WE SUPPOSE" OR "AS WE THINK." STOESSEL

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